

This discussion today to be complete will take longer than we have. I have put more information in the hand outs than I will be able to cover in one session, but it will be there for your use. I encourage you to read these texts, with an open mind, and open heart, and let God speak to you.

As some of you know, it is important to understand the perspective of those that teach or instruct us. I am a person of the BOOK, and believe and accept the Biblical record as God's Truth, limited only by translation errors. I do not apologize for being a believer in creation, redemption, salvation, grace, resurrection, rapture and restoration and look forward to Jesus return.

Genesis is the foundational book that sets the tone for the whole Bible and its story of Redemption.

Key Discussion

When discussing Biblical Foundations there are critical basics that need to be cleared up:

- *How did our World get here*
- *Where did we come from*
- *Where are we going*
- *What is our purpose*

We all have common thoughts about who we are and where we came from. For those of us that went to public schools after the 70's we have seen the increasing hostility to the Genesis record and the increasing pressure to believe the secular story of evolution, and making fun of the people who believe the Biblical record.

The world has its views of all these questions and you could get a POV from many people.

Modern Technology

- Unbelievably powerful computers calculating the moving bodies in the universe and shifts in earth
- Telescopes and cameras that can take pictures from the deepest regions of space
- Pictures of Mars, the moon, asteroids
- Listening devices to listen to the sounds of the universe

Technology is supplying new details about all facets of our world. Everything from computers that can calculate unimaginable tracks of stars and earth. Telescopes and cameras that can peer into the deepest regions of space. Space probes that can send back picture of Mars, the moon, asteroids, and satellites that can “listen” to the sounds of space.

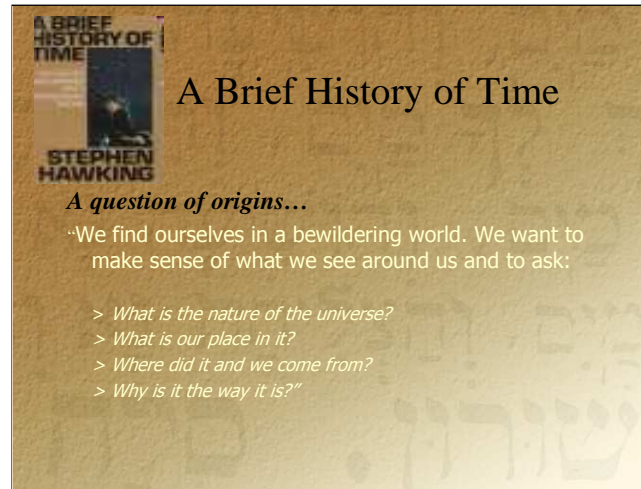


Just take a look at one of the pictures from NASA's telescopes showing a Nebula exploding. It is called the "Hand of God" and I think it is an interesting picture of God placing items in the galaxy.

Even though most "scientists" don't profess belief in God, they are quick to see things in their work that remind them that God is there and in control.



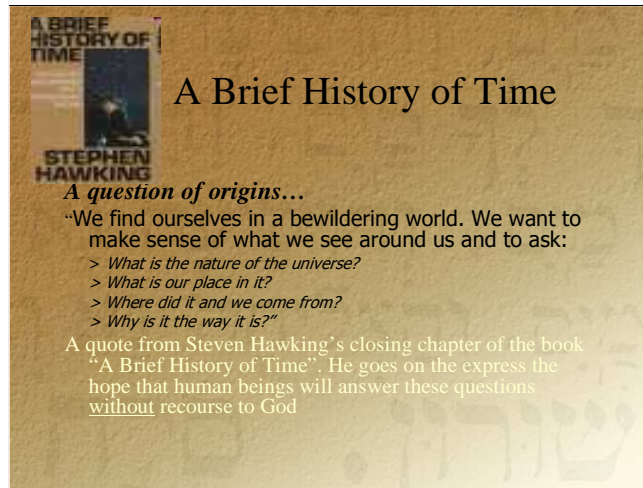
This is another picture called the "Eye of God" that also shows the incredible immenseness of space and blows our minds with the things God has created and formed. Astronomers and Physics professionals deal in the wonder of space but for the most part do not understand the universe and its origin. There are many ideas.



Steven Hawking’s book, a quote from the closing chapter.

“ We find ourselves in a bewildering world. We want to make sense of what we see Around us, and to ask: What is the nature of the universe? ; What is our place in it ?; Where did it and we come from?; and why is it the way it is?

He goes on to express the hope that human beings will answer these questions without recourse to God.



Steven Hawking is an atheist, and a British Theoretical Physicist. He has ALS and is suffering the final stages of the disease. He is a brilliant physicist, but cannot see beyond his own knowledge horizons.

His book explains in highly scientific terms, what has happened since what he calls the Big Bang. He does not explain the second before the Big Bang, nor what existed then, or if anything existed then.

In truth, no human can ever know the origins of the universe, the earth, or anything else from that time period.

I ask you, do you want a God that is defined by what we human beings know? Do you want a God that just fills in the gaps between what we know and what we don't? How comforting would it be to have our God defined by the knowledge of science? What would God have looked like with the science knowledge in Jesus time, or in the time of the crusades, or in the middle ages, or even in the 20th century? Even with the exploding knowledge of today and beyond, our thinking we can define and understand God is the height of folly.

For me, I am happy to have as my God, a God who is bigger than what I know or will ever know... Or what Steven Hawking knows or will ever know. My God is not a “God of the Gaps”, but the God of All. The BOOK of Genesis introduces us to that wonderful and great God who is Lord of all, and the creator and sustainer of all.

Process to Discovery

- Book of Genesis in Old Testament
 - Genesis means “beginnings”
 - Genesis explains, from a God POV
 - *How the earth and all were created*
 - *Who did the creating*
 - *How it was done*
 - *Was it good or bad*
 - *Why are we here ?*
 - *What is our purpose in being here ?*
 - *How did we get the way we are ?*

As the name implies, the book of **Genesis** is a book of origins. It is a Greek word that means Beginnings or Origins. The Hebrew title of the book comes from the first 3 words of the text “In the Beginning”. Genesis is more than a book of Beginnings, it is the first of the 66 books that make up the God breathed inspired scripture we hold as truth and call the Bible. It is relevant to understanding the beginnings, but also in placing in context the remaining 65 books of the Old and New Testaments.

Genesis introduces us to the true and living God
...God’s POV on the questions we all have...but also:
...To the beginnings of Sin
...The consequences of Sin
...how it has affected the whole created order
...but also introduces us to God’s grace and promises

Today's Study

- Focus on Genesis 1:1 to Genesis 2:3

Genesis 1...The Beginning ...before Day 1

1. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
2. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

I often tell people if they can believe the first 4 words of Genesis, they should not have any trouble with the balance of the book. Let's discuss some terms so we can see what the scripture really says...

Create – word means create from nothing. Not to take ingredients and make something new in form. When God created the heavens and the earth, it means he created all the elements of the universe...matter...space... If you were to build something, you take materials that exist, fashion them and change them into a work of your imagination. Sometimes we say we "created" it. From a Biblical sense, this is not the word that is used. When God creates, he creates from nothing and makes something. Understanding the Biblical definitions is key to keeping the misunderstanding caused by definition changes out of our thoughts.

When the text says **Formless**, it means there was not any structure, just elements...only an expanse filled with matter and water in a slurry of material and liquid.

Empty means void of life

Darkness is the absence of light so no light was present and the **deep (or abyss)** refers to the slurry that was everywhere.

Spirit of God was **Hovering**>> The Holy Spirit was **hovering** and protecting/watching over the creation, like a mother eagle hovers over it's nest.

Think of this--God created from nothing, all the elements that make up everything that we understand in the whole universe or galaxies including the space to hold them. In the midst of this creation, Gods Spirit was guarding and protecting the creation. This explains what was going on before the so called "Big Bang"...God was and is ...and He created.

Pretty mind blowing to think that there was time before time began...and God was there.

There will be a time after time ends...and God will be there (and so will we)

All that we know is a world of time and space and materials. We think in 3 dimensions, with time as a 4th dimension. It was not always so. One of the great fallacies modern scientific thought is what is called uniformism. This is the idea that all the processes we see and think about today, have always existed like they are now, and if we want to "see" the past or future we can mathematically calculate what things will be or were like at the time. This is wrong thinking. In Genesis we see how this could be different, and since none of us were there, we cannot know. Everything we believe then, is an assumption based on our faith in either scientific thought, or Biblical understanding.

Genesis 1:3-5 Day 1

3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.
4 God saw that the light was good, and He separated the light from the darkness.
5 God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

In verse 1 ...God Created.
In verse 2...Spirit Hovered
In verse 3...God Said
In verse 4...God saw
In verse 5...God called

So God speaks and light comes into existence...not the sun or the moon or the stars, but just light. God saw the light and that it was GOOD and he separated the light from the dark. Whenever God says it "was GOOD", he has completed a part of His creation like he wants it. Notice when the matter and space was created in V1-2, it was not complete and not declared "GOOD" until now.

God not only separated light from dark but He names them "Day" and "Night" and the sequence of a "day" is defined as evening and morning... the first day. The word "day" that is used can be day as we define it but also season or indefinite period of time...(we see the first mention of time since we see the unit of measure called Day). This has been widely argued in theological circles as to the meaning and length of the term "day". Some argue for a literal 24 hours, like we have in our normal day in 2009. Others argue that it may be billions of years since "time" has little meaning to God and was not defined yet in the scripture.

My thought – I believe reading into scripture ideas from today is a dangerous practice and has little or no value in reality. Whatever we argue doesn't really matter except to our own idea of understanding. I prefer to believe exactly what the scripture says and not get off into non essential arguments. So my belief is that that since God had not defined the day in terms of 24 hours, I would not be dogmatic about it.

Before Day one declared- God created all the elements of the universe, and the Heavens and Earth and then light, evenings, and mornings, and time...and it was GOOD. I am not supposing a previous day here, but simply saying since Day 1 was defined at the outset as Evening, then morning...it is not clear how long the time before the first evening lasted.

Genesis 1:6-8 Day 2

- 6 And God said, "Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate water from water." 7 So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above it. And it was so. 8 God called the expanse "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.

God said, God made, and God called

In all the vast watery formless space, God speaks an area between the waters so that waters are above and below the expanse. God made the expanse (not created) and called it "sky" (...or atmosphere).

God is not done... so not declared "Good" – end of second day

Genesis 1:9-13 Day 3

9 And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so.
10 God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good.
11 Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so.
12 The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.
13 And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.

God speaks, and God calls the water together and forms and names the seas and the land, and calls it GOOD. He is now finished with this part of creation and declares it GOOD.

Day 3 is a busy day

Land produces seed bearing plants and trees with fruit having seeds in it. The seed in each was "according to its Kind" and God saw it was GOOD- the third day.

This is important because the term "kind" defines the reproductive strategy that God was declaring.

Note: Gods use of KIND is in no way related to the man made terms of modern biology and taxonomy. Be careful to always understand that what God calls KIND has a more general meaning than modern science.

So God has created time, space, and all the heavens, earth, and universe(s). Then on the 3rd day He speaks and vegetation of all kinds begins to grow. Note there is no Sun, Moon, or stars yet mentioned so the light is from God himself. It was a finished and sustaining part of the creation so God saw that it was GOOD.

Genesis 1:14-19 Day 4

14 And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years,
15 and let them be lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so.
16 God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars.
17 God set them in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth,
18 to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good.
19 And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day.

God speaks the Sun and Moon into existence and assigns them the purpose of providing light to the earth, and marking the times and seasons. Time becomes measurable now. God sets these lights in the sky along with the stars and provide the separation of Light from Dark, and saw that it was GOOD. (Complete part of creation) 4th Day

Note: the sun and moon are SIGNS to mark seasons. They are what we use as signs to tell seasons and times.

Genesis 1:20-23 Day 5

20 And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky."

21 So God created the great creatures of the sea and every **living** and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

22 God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth."

23 And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.

God said, God created, God blessed and said...

God creates again, which means created from nothing. He has created all the sea creatures, and birds and blessed them and commanded them to be fruitful and multiply...according to their own kind...5th day

He calls them **living**, which means a "soul". This is what gives living creatures a mind and personality. Grass and plants while having the ability to grow and reproduce do not have a soul. This "soul" is what is the creative part of the living creatures and had not been created until day 5.

Note: they are blessed and commanded to be fruitful (be busy doing what He created them for) and procreate and fill the earth and seas.

So plants created on day 4, and sea creatures and birds created on day 5, each according to its kind... and God saw that it was GOOD. (completed section of creation)

Genesis 24-31 Day 6

24 And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so.

25 God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

26 Then God said, "Let **us** make man in **our** image, in **our** likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

29 Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food.

30 And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food." And it was so.

31 God saw **all** that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

Now God is ready for land animals and Man. First He makes the land animals, according to their kinds... Including livestock and wild animals...and God saw that it was GOOD.
(complete creation section)

Word for GOD here is **Elohim** which is a plural noun. This gives us a clear indication that God is more complex than we have imagined. We have already seen and discussed God's Spirit and now we see God as more than one. We also see God talking to himself in discussing making Man in God's own image. Male and Female, He created them in his own image. The crowning achievement of Creation is the creation of Mankind. Being in God's image means that in important ways, we are like God. We have a soul, a spirit, and the ability to communicate with God. It is not that we look like God, for no man knows what God looks like, but in spirit form, we are able to become sons and daughters of God, unlike any other creature or created thing.

God gives Man specific instruction on what to eat and about having dominion over the earth and the animals. God saw that it was VERY GOOD.
Completion of creation of Man. God saw *all that He had made*, and it was Very Good.

Note: God made the land animals. Since land animals have a soul, as we discussed before, the elements of their being all existed, so God took the existing elements and fashioned (made) them. When it comes to Man, we too have a soul, like the animals, BUT we also have something else which has not been created. So God created Man in his own Image. This is important because MAN shares much with animals, but we differ in one important way, we are created in the image of God, in the likeness of God, and we rule over the creation.

There is much debate over what this means, but clearly we have a quality of our life in addition to our personality that can reason and have a relationship with God and each other beyond the physical relationship of animals. We have higher order thinking skills and the ability to become sons and daughters of God himself. In whatever other way you want to describe this new quality, it is being in the "image and likeness of God".

Genesis 2:1-2 Day 7

Genesis 2

- 1 Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.
- 2 By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work.
- 3 And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

Genesis 2:1 says it. God created the heavens and the earth in all their vastness, and completed them. He didn't start the process like a watch and let it go to evolve over time (as far as secular evolution goes). He completed each element of the creation in its final form and declared it GOOD or VERY GOOD.

On Day 7, God rested from his creation work. It does not say God did nothing, it says he rested from Creation. When God rested, he set the day apart and blessed it. To the Jews and others this day evolved into a work free day and day where rules that are man-made dominate the way it is celebrated or recognized. This day is Saturday which is the last day of the week.

In the Christian community, we celebrate the Sunday, the Lords Day, which is the day of the Resurrection of Christ. The Sabbath day is part of the OT covenant and thus is held as instruction given for the time period given, and it has been supplanted by the NT covenant and directions.

Note: Jesus came to do the creative work of Redemption for us. He was born, lived, and died under the Old Covenant. When he died on the cross and said "It is finished"...his creative work was done and he rested from his creative work on the Saturday before the resurrection...but He did not rest from His work of redemption because he went to Hades and preached and explained to those who had died before his message of redemption. When He rose again on Sunday, he demonstrated God's power over the physical side of the human condition and the redemptive process began for all of us.

Adam, Eve, and the Garden

Gen 2: 8-17

- 8 Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed.
- 9 And the LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- 10 A river watering the garden flowed from Eden; from there it was separated into four headwaters.
- 11 The name of the first is the Pishon; it winds through the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold.
- 12 (The gold of that land is good; aromatic resin and onyx are also there.)
- 13 The name of the second river is the Gihon; it winds through the entire land of Cush.
- 14 The name of the third river is the Tigris; it runs along the east side of Asshur. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.
- 15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.
- 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden;
- 17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

Chapters 2 and 3 give more detail on the creation steps

Before God created man (Adam) He had planted a garden in Eden. He placed the man in the garden with all Kinds of trees, water, and beauty

Adam was to care for the Garden. As an aside, the word **Paradise**, which Jesus used when He told the thief on the cross he would join him in **Paradise**, is a word that is a Persian word that was in common usage in the Biblical times. It means "Garden of the King". When God created the Garden of Eden, He created a paradise for Man where he could fellowship and walk with God.

God created and planted the Garden of Eden and Jesus returned to the Garden of the King. We see many similarities between the Genesis record and the NT record. I will point some of them out as we go through the scriptures.

The first similarity is to understand who this Creator-God is. We think of Him as God the father, but in the NT Gospel of John we see something different.

Who was this Creator God?

➤ *We get dramatic insight in the Gospel of John*

John 1 - The Word Became Flesh

- 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- 2 He was with God in the beginning.
- 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.
- 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of men.
- 5 The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

This passage is its own subject of long discussion, but critical to the OT discussion is the understanding that here the Word is later understood to be Jesus, and Jesus was the Creator God. Also interesting is that in him was Life (spiritual life) and that life becomes our Light.

This understanding gives enhanced meaning to understand that Jesus was the creator, and He created all, and that He created and planted the Garden of Eden. When he mentioned to the thief that he would be with Him in Paradise, it provides a beautiful picture of God's hand planted garden where we will join him in the future.

As we will see next, in the Genesis story, Adam and Eve have a problem in the Garden of Eden.

Arrival of Eve - Gen 2

20 So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found.

21 So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. 22 Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

23 The man said,
*"This is now bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called 'woman,
for she was taken out of man."*

24 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

25 The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

After the Garden of Eden, and the placing of Adam in the Garden, there was no one for him, and God did not want him to be alone. So, Adam was created from dust, but Eve was created from Adam (Rib really means side). She was created to be a perfect match for him because she was taken from him. (Woman means – out of man). This original marriage was certainly one-flesh and v24 pronounces this as God's plan for marriage in the future.

Difference between Man and Wo-man

Note: shame was not a part of this because they were in the natural, pure and created state and thought nothing about it

Cradle of Life



Garden of Eden: Near location of intersection of Tigris and Euphrates Rivers in modern Iraq. Of course we are assuming that the current Tigris and Euphrates rivers are the same rivers as the biblical text and they are in the same location. This is just interesting from a discussion POV, but certainly not an article of Faith. It does make some sense since Abraham came from the same area where the biblical town of UR was located.

Abraham



Ur, in Modern Iraq. Called Ur of Chaldees in reference to Chaldeans who lived in the area

The Lord's Instructions

Genesis 2:15

15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to **work it and take care of it.**

16 And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden;

17 but you **must not** eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and **evil**, for when you eat of it you will surely **die.**"

4 quick points

1. God gave Adam this instruction before Eve was created, and it was direct instruction to Adam
2. Adam was intended to tend God's Garden, but it was a labor without difficulty or drudgery. Work existed before the fall of Man
3. Death was not something that existed at this time. The tree of Life provided capability to extend life forever and death and decay were not part of creation. The death spoken of here is spiritual as well as physical death, although the timing is not mentioned. God did not say Adam would drop dead, only that he would die.
4. Lastly the word EVIL here does not mean Evil as you might think of it. Since pure Evil was not in the Garden of Eden and God did not create EVIL, we must look to a simpler definition. Think of the knowledge in this tree as the knowledge of Obedience and Disobedience. Of course this disobedience is missing the Mark that God has laid out for us, and we call this SIN.

So if Adam ate from this tree, he would be disobeying a direct command from the Lord, and his eyes would be open to the consequences of Sin, and the subsequent spiritual and physical death.

Disobeying God

Genesis 3: 1-13-The Fall of Man

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'"
2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,
3 but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"
4 "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman.
5 "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."
6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.
7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.
8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.
9 But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"
10 He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."
11 And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"
12 The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."
13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"
The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

This is a familiar story and I will not go through it in detail, except to say

Serpent – original Hebrew word means beautiful upright creature, not snake as we understand it today (see judgment)

Crafty means cunning, not devious

Did God really say... Sin begins when we question God and bring His word into question...

Eve misunderstands what God really said and adds to it. She heard God's command from Adam. The Serpent lies to Eve about "not surely dying" and she is enticed by the fruit and eats and gets Adam to eat.

At this point they had disobeyed God and this was the **first Sin** – and what we call the FALL of Man

Immediately they feel shame and covered themselves with leaves. Then hid from God...and were afraid since they had disobeyed Him

Consequences of 1st Sin

- Serpent is condemned to crawl in dirt and have enmity with woman's seed*, and be cursed above all animals
- Eve is condemned to have pain in childbirth and be under the dominion of Adam, and have desire for him
- Adam is condemned to work the ground in pain, suffering, toil and tears, with thorns growing to make it more difficult.

Lord's Actions

- 21 The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.
- 22 And the LORD God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever."
- 23 So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken.
- 24 After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side (or in front) of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

* Protoevangelium reference

Genesis 3: 14 through 19 ...Consequences of Sin enumerated for Adam, Eve, and the Serpent

These are both immediate and long term for their descendants.

LORD God – changing terms from **Elohim** to **Yahweh Elohim, where Yahweh (YHWH) means "The Existing One"**. This seems to be used where there is a more personal reference to God and His dealing with us. Yahweh is considered the proper name for God and is used in the Hebrew texts as **"YHWH"**.

Also Elohim decides that man can no longer be near the tree of life and live forever, so the sentence of death is accomplished and man is banished from the Garden. Some translations say "driven" from the Garden signifying Adam and Eve did not go willingly.

Also, the LORD made garments for them, from the skins of animals. This is the first instance of killing animals and the death of other life forms as well.

Some Interesting parallels between Adam and Christ for us...(not an exhaustive list)

God created and planned and planted the Garden of Eden for Mankind
The LORD goes to prepare a place for us in Eternity

Adam's (and Eve's) disobedience caused them to be under the curses of work, pain, tears, subjugation, and both physical and spiritual death.
LORD God covers A/E with skins of animals sacrificed for their sin. (most likely sheep)
Christ – Suffers pain, tears, crown of thorns, scorn, and death and is sacrificed in our place for our sins. His blood covers our sin.

Adam and Eve were driven from the Garden of the King for disobedience
We are ushered into His presence in the Garden of the King for our belief on Him

A/E were denied everlasting life with God in the Garden
Christ provides everlasting life in the Garden with God

Genesis... Why Believe it?

- Without Genesis belief...
 - No explanation of any of the questions about who we are and how we and our world got here
 - No understanding of Original Sin and the Fall of Man
 - No explanation of why Jesus had to come and die for our sins
 - No way to connect the bookends of our Faith... Genesis and Revelation
 - Our Faith in God's Word is hollow and we select what to believe or not to believe based on our understanding

As a Christian, belief in Genesis is foundational to the Biblical record and sets the Context for the other 65 Books

Final Thoughts

- Genesis provides foundational truth for us
 - *How did our World get here...*
 - *Where did we come from...*
 - *Where are we going...*
 - *What is our purpose...*

I know this is a topic that is longer than the time I had to discuss it, but hopefully the notes will give you the sense of completeness for the review and some desire for further study.

We can never know all there is to know about God, and His mighty works, and His overall plan

But we can know our next steps...

God has provided us with the Guidebook for our lives and our redemption. We know the following items through His Spirit ministering to us.

- We were created by Him and for His pleasure and Fellowship
- He loves us and wants the best for us
- He has given us the Holy Spirit to live in our hearts, if we will accept Him
- The Bible provides instructions on living in relation with God and Man
- The spirit teaches us day by day as we search for God and listen to His voice
- We have a secure place with the LORD when our time here is over
- God has provided His Grace for us to live and work and prosper
- We are to live here on Earth in Christian community (local church) and be what God has called us a equipped us to do.

References

- NIV Study Bible – texts and notes
- The Genesis Record – Henry Morris
- The Book of Origins – Philip Eveson
- Online Hebrew Interlinear -
http://www.scripture4all.org/OnlineInterlinear/Hebrew_Index.htm
- BibleGateway.com

These are all good Genesis references, especially the two textbooks.

The Genesis Record is

out of print but still available on Amazon. The subtitle is:

...*"A scientific and devotional Commentary"*.

Dr Morris has a companion book also on Genesis which should be extremely good.

Both books are detailed and thorough.

The Book of Origins is a modern look at Genesis and very easy reading. Not as deep theologically as Dr Morris' books but good none the less.